48. Ramkesh Pandey
49. Sunil Das
50. S. D. Pandey
51. Tiwary Singh & Bros.

Bad quality of coal supplied by CIL

3273. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of complaints received by the CIL from the public sector units on the quality of coal during the last five years, year-wise and unit-wise;

(b) what is the amount which was paid as the penalty for compensation for supplying bad quality of coal, during the last five years, year-wise and unit-wise;

(c) what are the figures of compensation paid to the private sector; and

(d) what steps are being taken to stop such supply of bad quality of coal?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Payment to contractual warkers in Loyabad colliery

3274. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1424 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th May, 1987 and state:

(a) the exact dates and places where the payments to the contractual workers in the Loyabad colliery were made and the names of the officers supervising the payments, during the last six months;

(b) whether the payments were made under direct supervision on the spot, where payments were being made, or whether signatures were merely obtained on the registers prepared by the contractors in the office;

(c) whether the officers in the BCCL in general and Loyabad in particular are in league with the contractors, inviting prosecution by the Labour Department; if so, what are the details of such cases in the Court as on 1st July, 1987; and

(d) what steps are taken to enforce laws for contractual workers in BCCL?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Contract system in Eastern Coalfield

3275. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Agreement dated 23rd March, 1985 between the General Manager, Kapasara Area of Eastern Coalfield Limited and the Contractor M/s. Ravi Udyog, Dhanbad on "Hiring of H.E.M.M.";

(b) whether the contract was based not on charges for the use of machine but on the amount of work done under the contract system;

(c) whether the contract was in violation of the existing laws prohibiting the use of contract system in the collieries both for raising coal and removing overburden; if so, what steps are being taken in regard thereto; and

(d) whether there could be a 'short Tender Notice' in such a contract as mentioned in the Agreement if so, what are the reasons therefor; if not, what steps have been taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) The work order for hiring of Heavy Earth Moving Machinery was issued to M/s. Ravi Udyog, Dhanbad on 23rd March, 1985.

(b) The hiring rate was related to the performance of the fleet of machines as assessed from in-situ measurement of excavation, loading and transportation done by the H. E. M. M.

(c) In the present case since no manual labour was to be engaged on contract for raising of coal or overburden, there has been no violation of any law.

(d) As there was a slight delay in calling for tender, a short tender notice was issued.

Contract system in coal transport in BCCL

3276. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of trucks and other vehicles purchased by the BCCL for carrying coal during the last five years, year-wise;

(b) how many of them were in operation on the 1st July, 1987;

(c) whether it is a fact that most of the departmental vehicles are standing idle while the transport contracts are increasing;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof indicating the amount paid to the coal transport contractors in the collieries during the last five years, year-wise; and

(e) whether this contract system is breeding mafias; if so, the steps taken to end the contract system in coal transport and to optimise the use of departmental vehicles?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Closure of coal mines

3277. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the closure of a number of coal mines by ECL and BCCL;

(b) if so, what is the number of such coal mines;

(c) what are the reasons for their closure;

(d) whether there is any coal reserve in such mines;

(e) if so, what is the total estimated quantity and its quality and utility; and

(f) what is the effect of such closures on the employment situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (f) The Government had appointed the Chari Committee to look into the working of the Eastern Coalfields Limited. The Committee identified 22 coal mines as uneconomical on account of high cost of production and extremely low output per man shift. After examination of the report of the Committee, the Government have directed Coal India Limited/Eastern Coalfields Limited to finalise reconstruction and development schemes in respect of 10 mines and work out a scheme of re-deployment/rationalisation of manpower of the remaining 12 mines with a view to close them ultimately. Eastern Coalfields Limited have decided to close three mines out of these 12 mines for economic/technical reasons. Regarding the remaining mines,